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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 OCS-06 CA-01 SE-15 L-03 PPT-01
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3847

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FOR NEA/IAI, CA/OCS/CHR, ALSO FOR OFFICE OF THE
COUNSELOR

F.O. 12065: 4/A
TAGS: CASC, IS
SUBJECT: ARTICLE ON BLACK HEBREWS IN DEC 5 1980 EDITION
OF JERUSALEM POST

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE DEC 5 1980
JERUSALEM POST. VERBATIM TEXT AND EMBASSY COMMENTS
FOLLOW:

QUOTE

'PROVE' BLACK HEBREWS BUY FLAT

BY JOHN FORSTEN, JERUSALEM POST REPORTER

ALTHOUGH BEN-AMI CARTER, LEADER OF THE BLACK HEBREWS,
CLAIMED AT A RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE CULT IS
ESTABLISHED, WELL-INFORMED SOURCES YESTERDAY REPORTED THAT
THE CULT THIS WEEK PURCHASED A FLAT AT 36 REMOV BEN YAIR,
IN ARAD, AND HAS ALREADY PAID 1540,000 OF THE 15180,000
PURCHASE PRICE.

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THE SAME SOURCES SAID THAT IF THE CULT CURRENTLY HAS A
"CASH FLOW" PROBLEM, IT IS ONLY TEMPORARY. THE BLACK
HEBREWS' ORGANIZATION IN DIFFERENT U.S. CITIES REGULARLY
FORWARDS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS EARNED BY A NETWORK
OF RESTAURANTS, ICE CREAM PARLOURS, AND BUSINESSES. THE
SOURCES SAID, THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY FINANCIAL CIRCLES IN
ARAD.

RESIDENTS OF 36 REMOV BEN YAIR HAVE ORGANIZED IN OPPO-
SITION TO THE BLACK HEBREWS AND ARE COLLECTING MONEY TO
PURCHASE AN IRON GATE FOR THE BUILDING'S ENTRANCE TO KEEP
CULT MEMBERS OUT. THE RESIDENTS HAVE ALSO NOTIFIED THE
CULT'S HEADQUARTERS IN DIMONA THAT THE BLACK HEBREWS WILL
NOT BE ALLOWED TO MOVE INTO THE FLAT.

BUT ACCORDING TO CARTER, THE CULT IS IN SUCH FINANCIAL
STRAITS THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO PAY THEIR BILLS AND HAVE
HAD GAS AND ELECTRICITY TURNED OFF IN TEN OF THEIR RENTED
FLATS IN DIMONA.

CARTER ALSO DENIED THAT CHARLES BLACKWELL, LEADER OF THE
ARAD BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY, EVER HAD THE FINANCIAL
RESOURCES SEVERAL MONTHS AGO TO OFFER ANOTHER ARAD
RESIDENT \$42,000 CASH - OR ANY SUM OF MONEY - FOR HIS
FLAT. RESIDENTS OF THE 67 BEN YAIR BLOCK, WHERE THAT FLAT
IS LOCATED, EVENTUALLY CONVINCED THE FLAT'S OWNER NOT TO
SELL. BUT FIRST THEY HAD TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR OPPOSITION -
CLAIMING THAT A SALE TO THE BLACK HEBREWS WOULD LOWER
THEIR PROPERTY VALUE AND AFFECT THE BUILDING'S 'QUALITY
OF LIFE' - BY ERECTING AN IRON SECURITY GATE AT THE
ENTRANCE TO KEEP THE BLACK HEBREWS OUT. (THIS "LOCK-OUT"
STRATEGY TO KEEP CULT MEMBERS FROM MOVING INTO A BUILDING
WAS FIRST USED IN DIMONA.)

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REVIEWED BY JL DATE 8/18/81

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EX-CULT MEMBERS INTERPRET CARTER'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CULT'S POVERTY AND THE COMMUNITY'S MODEST LIFESTYLE AS A PLOY TO WIN SYMPATHY HERE AND ABOARD. IT IS ALSO SEEN AS PRESSURE ON INTERIOR MINISTER YOSEF BURG TO APPROVE THE GLASS COMMITTEE REPORT WHICH RECOMMENDS GIVING CULT MEMBERS PERMANENT RESIDENCE VISAS AND SETTLING THEM IN AN AGRICULTURAL VILLAGE.

THE EX-MEMBERS INSIST THAT CARTER HIMSELF IS A MILLIONAIRE, AND THAT THE U.S. ORGANIZATION OPERATES ON A BIG BUDGET. THE CHICAGO OFFICES WERE DESCRIBED AS A LARGE, MODERN THREE-STORY BUILDING, WITH A LARGE NATIONAL STAFF.

BURG APPARENTLY REMAINS DETERMINED NOT TO ACCEPT THE GLASS REPORT, BUT THE MINISTER IS BEING PRESSURED TO DO SO - OR AT LEAST TO COME UP WITH A MORE FEASIBLE SOLUTION - BY THE ANCEST INTERIOR COMMITTEE.

ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY'S SECURITY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, YERUCHIM HUEPNER, "THERE HAS BEEN A NORMAL EVOLUTION IN OUR THINKING ABOUT HOW THE STATE SHOULD DEAL WITH ANYONE WHO IS IN THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY, OR WORKING ILLEGALLY, OR WHO HAS A BLACK MARK AGAINST HIM." HUEPNER SAYS THAT TODAY ANYONE, BE THEY INDIANS, WHITE AUSTRALIANS, YELLOW VIETNAMESE, OR BLACK MEMBERS WHO ARE DISCOVERED TO BE BREAKING THE LAW WILL BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY.

IN THE PAST, THE BLACK MEMBERS' ILLEGAL PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY WAS TOLERATED BY THE POLICE. BUT SEVERAL EX-CULT MEMBERS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE BEEN IN THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY FOR YEARS, WERE RECENTLY ROUNDED UP BY THE EILAT POLICE. TWO DAYS AGO TWO CULT MEMBERS WERE ARRESTED AT BEN-GURION

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FOR NEA/IAI, CA/OCS/EWR, ALSO FOR OFFICE OF THE
SUNSHOWER

AIRPORT WHEN IT WAS FOUND THAT THEIR VIGAS HAD EXPIRED
LONG AGO.

UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT:

(A) PURCHASE OF FLAT.

- EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO VERIFY PURCHASE.

(B) IRON GATE.

- THE THREAT OF A LOCK-OUT WILL PROBABLY BE CARRIED OUT.
EMBASSY VISITORS TO THE PNC HAVE ALREADY SEEN ONE SUCH
IRON GATE IN USE IN CIMONA BEFORE THE PNC MOVED TO ITS
NEW LOCATION.

(C) PNC LIFESTYLE.

- WHILE IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT BEN-AMI CARTER AND HIS
"PRINCES" MIGHT HAVE ACCESS TO A MORE LUXURIOUS LIFESTYLE,
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POSSIBLY IN THE APARTMENT(S) IN JERUSALEM WHICH THE BNC
SAY THEY OWN, TO ALL APPEARANCES THEIR LIFESTYLE IS
EXTREMELY MODEST. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO VERIFY WHETHER
UTILITIES WERE EVER TURNED OFF IN CIMONA.

(D) ISRAELI POLICY.

- THE NEW POLICY OF "SELECTIVE DEPORTATION" IS
APPARENTLY BEING ENFORCED, AS EVIDENCED BY RECENT ARRESTS
(SEE TEL AVIV 21834, 21839 AND 19337.)

(E) WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THE
DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ON THESE BN ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.,
E.G., THE CHICAGO OFFICE BUILDING MENTIONED IN THE
ARTICLE. LEWIS

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